

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 EA-06 IO-03 ISO-00 DHA-02 SS-07 NSC-06

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O 220430Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8843

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

JCRC CP SMAE SAN THAILAND IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

JCS

COMUSMACHTAI BANGKOK TH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 3939

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, VS

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL DE HANN AND TINKER/RETURN OR
MARINE REMAINS

REF: BANGKOK 3793

SUMMARY: DE HAAN AND TINKER DEPARTED BANGKOK FOR SAIGON
0925 SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22 WITH AN ANTICIPATED RETURN ETA
AT BANGKOK WITH THE TWO MARINE REMAINS SOME TIME BETWEEN
1330-1600 THE SAME DAY.

1. DE HAAN AND TINKER ARRIVED BANGKOK FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 20 FROM PARIS AS SCHEDULED. IN ADDITION TO
THE CONFUSION CAUSED BY THE CHANGE OF LENGTH OF THEIR
STAY IN SAIGON, REF MSG, FRIDAY PM WE WERE
INFORMED BY UNHCR BANGKOK THAT FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON
THE LAOTIANS WITHDREW THEIR AIR LAO DC-4 SUPPORT FOR
THE UNHCR CHARTER FOR DE HAAN AND TINKER'S BANGKOK-
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SAIGON FLIGHT.

2. UNHCR REPS HERE IN BANGKOK WORKING WITH DE HAAN AND TINKER AND WITH EMBASSY ASSISTANCE WORKED FRANTICALLY FRIDAY EVENING, ALL DAY SATURDAY AND MOST OF SATURDAY NIGHT TO ARRANGE FOR THE CHARTER OF AIR FRANCE'S CARAVELLE WHICH THE FRENCH USE FOR THEIR SAIGON-BANGKOK EVACUATION FLIGHTS (THE CARAVELLE IS NOT SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAYS) AND THEN TO CLEAR THIS CHANGE THROUGH UNHCR-DRV CHANNELS.

3. AT DEPARTURE TIME FROM DON MUANG, 0925 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1976 FOR SAIGON, UNHCR AND AIR FRANCE REPS HERE IN BANGKOK STILL DID NOT HAVE CONFIRMATION FROM DRV THAT OFFICIALS IN SAIGON WERE AWARE OF CHANGE OF PLANES AND AIRLINES AND THAT THEY WOULD CLEAR THE AIR FRANCE CARAVELLE FOR LANDING AT TAN SON NHUT. HOWEVER, WORKING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE DRV HAD AGREED TO THE DATE OF FEBRUARY 22 TO TURN OVER THE REMAINS TO DE HAAN AND TINKER, THEY ANTICIPATE THAT THE DRV OFFICIALS IN SAIGON WILL CLEAR THE SPECIAL MISSION AIRCRAFT FROM BANGKOK.

4. ALSO, THE CHANGE OF AIRCRAFT NOW MAKES DE HAAN AND TINKER'S RETURN UNCERTAIN DUE TO CHANGES IN FLIGHT TIMES PLUS THE FACT DE HAAN AND TINKER WILL ATTEMPT TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME IN SAIGON AS THE DRV WILL ALLOW. OUR BEST ESTIMATE ON THEIR ARRIVAL AT DON MUANG IS SOME TIME BETWEEN 1330-1600 SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22, 1976.

5. THE TRANSFER OF THE REMAINS AT DON MUANG (MILITARY SIDE) FROM THE CARAVELLE TO THE USAF C-130 WILL BE HANDLED BY JCRC, WILL BE VERY SIMILAR TO THE DECEMBER 21 TRANSFER, AND WILL BE COVERED BY THE NEWS MEDIA. IN ADDITION TO THE FOUR MILITARY HONOR GUARDS LOCATED AT THE RAMP OF THE C-130 THERE WILL BE DE HAAN, TINKER, DR. BERTA (UNHCR) AND DCM MASTERS.
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